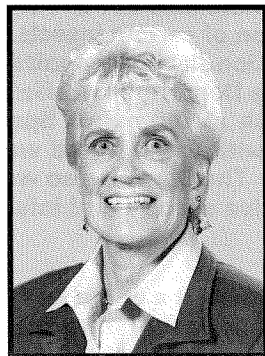


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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MARCH IS READING MONTH Whether we are checking food labels, filling out tax forms, or even voting, reading is a skill that is essential in everyday life. Schools and libraries across the nation will celebrate the joy of reading this month. Many will invite guests to read to children and discuss with them its importance and how it leads to future success in life. You can help open the door for adventure, discovery, and imagination for a child by reading one of your favorite books to them, or asking them to read one to you. Studies have shown that children who enjoy reading also enjoy learning and often perform better in school. Getting children excited about reading at an early age can be as simple as helping them read short clips in the daily newspapers or encouraging them to get a library card and making weekly trips to check out the latest books.

DID YOU KNOW? Dr. Seuss, author of famed children's books, including *Green Eggs and Ham*, received an Academy Award for best documentary short subject of 1945.

RESTRICTING PSEUDOEPHEDRINE PURCHASES In an effort to combat methamphetamine production in the state, legislation has been introduced that would require all products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as the sole active ingredient be kept behind a counter where the public is not permitted. Senate Bill 189 also would require a person buying the medication to show valid identification and sign a log book indicating the amount purchased. SB 189 allows for medicine that contains smaller amounts of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine to be exempt from the new rule and also exempts pediatric products intended for use by children under age 12. SB 189 is based on a similar law in Oklahoma. The state experienced an immediate and significant drop in methamphetamine production when the law took effect. Persons who violate the law or produce false identification would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both.

SENATE COMBATS INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES Michigan would be better protected against invasive plant species like Eurasian milfoil and hydrilla under legislation recently introduced in the Michigan Senate. Senate Bills 211-217 would identify prohibited insects and aquatic plant species and prohibit the release and introduction of certain insects and aquatic plant species. It would also amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to recognize the existence of and prohibit genetically engineered or non-native aquatic plants and require the Department of Natural Resources to post penalties on their website. Finally, the package of bills would establish a Non-native Species Advisory Council and specify its duties. The Advisory Council would establish criteria for identifying infested waterways and make recommendations regarding the state's efforts to eradicate invasive species. The Council also would report annually to the Legislature with recommendations for additions to the lists of invasive species and infested waterways.

SPYWARE PROTECTION EFFORTS The Michigan Senate is reviewing legislation that would make it a crime to install software that tracks Internet users' activity without their consent. Senate Bills 53, 54, and 151 were unanimously voted out of the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy. If signed into law, the bills would protect consumers from "spyware," which can monitor Web-based information and prompt pop-up advertisements. Violators would be subject to either a misdemeanor or felony charge, depending on the severity of the violation, punishable by a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 or imprisonment for 93 days to four years. SBs 53, 54, and 151 will now go before the full Senate for consideration. The United States Congress is also working on similar efforts.